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## BOOK NOTICES

**Phases of Early Christianity.** (American Lectures on the History of Religion.) By J. Estlin Carpenter. New York: Putnam, 1916. Pp xvi+449. \$2.00.

Principal Carpenter's volume comprises the "American Lectures on the History of Religion" for the year 1915. It is an exceptionally readable account of early Christian notions regarding salvation. The author treats in succession the idea of personal salvation which was advocated by Christianity, the person and work of the Savior, the church as the sphere of salvation, the saving worth of the sacraments, *gnosis* as a means of salvation, and the conception of Christian salvation current in the third century, especially as exhibited in the writings of Origen and Cyprian.

The period of history covered extends from 100 to 250 A.D., but occasional reference is made to features of Christianity in the first century. The author concerns himself mainly with data from the Christian documents, and with the inner history of Christianity, but he also recognizes that the Christians during this age were living in an environment which conditioned their activities. Yet it is a question whether more use might not have been made of the political, social, and cultural surroundings of the Christians as a means of shedding light upon their soteriological notions.

This volume, it must be remembered, is not designed to solve crucial problems in the period which it covers, and readers will be disappointed if they turn to the book for information or guidance in those fields which offer special perplexity or which involve new issues. But they will find in the book, in most attractive form, a fresh presentation of commonly accepted results stated in a way that will appeal to the general reader.

**The Bible and Universal Peace.** By George Holley Gilbert. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1914. Pp. xi+229. \$1.00.

With characteristic thoroughness and frankness Dr. Gilbert studies the relation between the teachings of the Bible and the hope of universal peace. There are eight chapters, devoted to a study of the wars reported in the Bible, the way in which the biblical writers regarded war, the place of war in visions of a coming golden age, the influence of the Bible on the sentiment and institutions of peace, appeals to the Bible in support of war, the Bible and the ideal of universal peace, and the relation of Jesus to the modern peace movement. The two chapters which display the influence of the Bible on the peace movement are of permanent

value in the literature of the subject. The brief concluding chapter makes plain the difference between the modern peace movement and the teachings and influence of Jesus: "Broadly speaking, it [the peace movement] is an attempt to secure peace by external pressure and restraint, while the method implicit in the gospel is inward and spontaneous" (p. 271). The success of all treaties and Hague conventions will finally depend upon the sentiment which will enforce them. For the creation of this sentiment we must look to Christ. The gospel works far more slowly than the scheme of political and economic agreements and treaties; but in the end it is the only sure guaranty; "where Jesus' ideal of brotherhood is realized, there peace is indestructible." Judicious, clear, and balanced, this book is a valuable addition to the subject. The indexes are complete.

**Bible Prophecies and the Plain Man, with Special Reference to the Present War.**

By Marr Murray. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1915. Pp. xvi+319. \$1.25.

This book is concerned with the relation of biblical prophecy to the present world-situation. The author holds that the Bible contains an infallible map of the future, although "the purpose of prophecy is to reveal to the initiated and to obscure from the uninitiated" (p. xiii). After reading this book one is supposed to have the comfortable feeling that he is initiated. Among the mysteries cleared up by the author through the interpretation of prophecy are the following: the British are the lost tribes of Israel (pp. 42-65); the "image" of the second chapter of Daniel gives us assurance that "Britain will be instrumental in administering a crushing defeat upon Germany" (p. 70); Isa. 37:33-35 proves that Germany will not be able successfully to invade England, and hints that the blood of King David flows in the veins of the king of England (p. 100). Still more interesting is the discussion of the question whether or not the Kaiser is Antichrist. He has many of Antichrist's characteristics; for example: "The Kaiser also possesses the number of the Beast. He was born on January 27, 1859. On January 27, 1914, he was just 660 months old, and 6 months later the war broke out. From the date of his birth to the opening of the great war in which he has flung down his challenge to fate was within a few days of 666 months. Moreover, in the words 'Der Kaiser Wilhelm II' there are eighteen letters or 6+6+6" (p. 302).

But the Kaiser fails to qualify fully as Antichrist because he is not a "military genius." If